

DECLARATION

of

the Ministers in Charge of Healthcare of the BSEC Member States

(Athens, 29 September 2014)

We, the Ministers in charge of Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals of the BSEC Member States,

Recognizing the need of strengthening cooperation in the sphere of public health and pharmaceuticals in the BSEC region;

Desirous to intensify interaction on health issues through programmes and concrete projects of common interest;

Acknowledging the importance of regional cooperation in improving the preparedness and response of our countries to health threats;

Guided by the “BSEC Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, endorsed at the Summit on the 20th Anniversary of the BSEC on 26 June 2012;

Taking stock of the Decision of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in Varna on 19 June 2014, which instructed the relevant BSEC Working Group to proceed with the designed schedule for creating a Network on emergency preparedness and response to health threats with all hazards approach and establishing a system of regular exchange of information among the BSEC Member States;

Affirming the need to implement the International Health Regulations (2005) under the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance for the coordination in management of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern;

Based on the priorities of cooperation in the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office “Building Support for Economic Cooperation-BSEC”;

We declare our resolution to:

1. *Encourage* the relevant National Administrations of the BSEC Member States to coordinate their actions, in order to allow the regular and systematic exchange of information on health threats;

2. *Develop* regional approaches, as appropriate, for networking between the competent Authorities in the BSEC region;

3. *Establish* a “Network for the Emergency Preparedness and Response within the BSEC Region (NET-EPR) in the field of healthcare”, to function in accordance with the International Health Regulation (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO), with the aim to ensure the exchange of information on health threats, in real time, between the participating BSEC Member States.

We express our gratitude to the Government of the Hellenic Republic for the organization of the Meeting and for the hospitality extended.